



**STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THE
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL
INSPECTIONS
KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 372
LOS ANGELES, CA 90012**

Wednesday, August 17, 2011

10:00 AM

ROLL CALL

Present: Chairperson Montaña, Vice Chairperson Bacio and
Commissioner Moore

Excused: Commissioner Bigby, Commissioner Hall and Commissioner Hill

The Pledge of Allegiance and a Moment of Silence will be led by Chairperson Montaña.

Chairperson Montaña led in the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a moment of silence.

I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

1. Meeting to be called to order by Chairperson Montaña. (11-3646)

Chairperson Montaña called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m. and noted a lack of quorum. Vice Chairperson Bacio joined the meeting at 10:15 a.m.

2. Approval of the August 10, 2011 Minutes. (11-3647)

Approval of the August 10, 2011 Minutes was deferred to the next Commission meeting.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

II. REPORTS

3. **ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION**

Department of Auditor-Controller

Department of Children and Family Services

–Report on Food Shortage at Pennacle Group Home

–Report on Computer Installation at Various Group Homes

Internal Services Department

–Update on Sewer Lines Replacements at Probation Camps

Department of Mental Health

Probation Department

Sheriff's Department

–Update Report to include Inmate Assaults on Inmates (11-3648)

Department of Auditor-Controller's Office

Ms. Cassandra Youngblood, Acting Group Home Ombudsman of the Auditor-Controller, stated that there's nothing significant to report to the Commission.

Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS)

Ms. Dorothy Channel, CSA II of Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), reported that there were seven Physical Abuse referrals during July of which one was evaluated out, while six are still pending and one General Neglect referral which was categorized as unfounded. Ms. Channel addressed the Commission's concern regarding the computer cabinets at various Group Homes, stating that the cabinets were installed by Los Angeles Unified School District who intends to install computers. The computer installation project is not affiliated with DCFS.

The investigation of food shortage at Pennacle Group Home was inconclusive, however, there were expired cans of food present and a Corrective Action Plan was implemented to ensure the prevention of other occurrences. She also reported that the report of physical abuse at Pennacle was unfounded.

Internal Services Department (ISD)

Mr. Luis Enriquez, Internal Service Department (ISD), stated he will report back to the Commission via e-mail regarding the status of sewer lines repair/replacement project at one of the probation camps.

Mental Health

There was no one present to speak before the Commission.

Probation Department

Ms. Lisa Campbell-Molten, Director of Placement Permanency & QA of the Probation Department (PD), reported for the month of July 2011, there were a total of 96 Absent Without Leave (AWOL); 47 remain AWOL;

19 returned to Group Homes; 19 were placed in juvenile hall; 3 are in camp; 1 was hospitalized; 1 is deceased and 1 is in Los Angeles County Jail (the five unaccounted were repeat AWOLS). There were 15 reports of child abuse, one of a sexual nature which was categorized as unfounded.

Boys Republic Group Home is on a Corrective Action Plan after one youth was restrained by three other boys and was beaten as part of an initiation pact. The victim remains on the premises but lives in a different cottage, the youth who led the beaten were removed from the Group Home and charges were filed. The on duty staff at the time of the beaten were terminated. Ettie Lee Group Home and Deli Lu was placed on investigation by a Judge due to report of high substance abuse at the facilities.

Ms. Campbell-Molten also reported that a child from Probation Department Group Home will appear in the adoption portion on the Good Day L.A. program on Friday, August 19, 2011, and the Department has a fourth child to be placed on their Media Based Child Adoption Program. The Department is implementing an "Adopt-a-Child" Pilot Program which teams up with Community churches. In addition, she reported that the Probation Department has completed all Group Home Monitoring Reports with only four reports remaining to be posted on their website.

Sheriff's Department

Commander Asmus, Sheriff's Department, reported that in order to curtail recidivism of inmates, the Sheriff is working to enact an education based program for inmates and that a special unit is being formed to oversee the program. Reflective tape is being installed in jails and courts and there's consideration of an alternative sentencing program where pre-sentencing detainees who meet special criteria may remain home with special monitoring devices while waiting for their court appearance. Inmates can now be sentenced up to 12 years in County Jails; funding to secure the courts will now go to the Sheriff's Department. The Sheriff will consider opening more facilities in order to accommodate the inmates which will be moved from the State Prisons and remanded to the County of Los Angeles jails.

4. Chairperson's Report on Various Items for August 17, 2011. (11-3649)

Chairperson Montaño shared the following Los Angeles Times Article with the Commission:

- County Fears A Prison Crisis (August 17, 2011)**

5. Treasurer's Report for August 17, 2011. (11-3650)

Vice Chairperson Bacio reported that the current bank statement balance of the Commission's Charitable Fund is \$470.77.

6. Staff Report on Correspondence Received, and Department Representative Reports. (11-3651)

Nyla Jefferson, staff, Commission Services shared the following with the Commission:

- **While the copier is not working properly; Commissioners should arrive a few minutes early in order to give staff ample time to make the copies; and**
- **Department Representatives should submit their documents prior to the Business Meeting to ensure copies are made and are available at the meeting.**

7. Review of Group Home Compliance Monitoring Audit Reports. (11-3652)

Vice Chairperson Bacio commented on the following Department of Children and Family Services Contract Compliance Monitoring Review Report.

- **Moore's Cottage Group Home "Pomona House"**

8. Commissioners' Reports on Group Homes and/or Detention Facilities Inspections from August 11, 2011 to August 16, 2011. (11-3653)

During this reporting period the following Group Homes/Facilities were reported as being in satisfactory condition:

Chairperson Montaño

- **Cerritos Station – The facility was visited on August 15, 2011;**
- **Los Angeles Youth Network "Taft House" – 26 #2, the facility was visited on August 16, 2011.**

During this reporting period the following Audit Review of a Group Home was reported as being in full compliance:

Vice Chairperson Bacio

- **Moore's Cottage Group Home "Pomona House" – 28 #3, the facility was visited on August 11, 2011.**

III. DISCUSSIONS

9. Discussion on Sunset Review and Commission Goals. (11-3732)

Nyla Jefferson, staff, Commission Services, reported on the following:

- **She is in the process of preparing the Sybil Brand Commission's Sunset Review Report;**
- **She will prepare a contacts list of past scholarship recipients to present for the next Commission meeting; and**
- **Reviewed the Sybil Brand Commission Goals for 2011.**

IV. MISCELLANEOUS

Matters Not Posted

10. Matters not on the posted agenda, to be discussed and (if requested) referred to staff or placed on the agenda for action at a future meeting, or matters requiring immediate action because of an emergency situation or where the need to take action came to the attention of the Commission subsequent to the posting of the agenda. (11-3654)

There were no matters presented for a future agenda.

Public Comment

11. Opportunity for members of the public to address the Commission on items of interest that are within the jurisdiction of the Commission. (11-3655)

There were no members of the public present to address the Commission.

Adjournment

12. Adjournment for the meeting of August 17, 2011. (11-3656)

The August 17, 2011 meeting adjourned at 10:55 a.m.